



The Sheridan Headlight



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Grant County BRIEFS

Auditions for Christmas Dinner Theater production

The Young Parent Scholarship Committee, with the assistance of Jeremy Clay, Sheridan High School Drama Instructor, will be conducting auditions for a Christmas Dinner Theater production entitled "The Old, Herit... Christmas" based on the books by Robert Fulghum. Fifteen holiday stories from the international best-selling author of All I Really Needed is Love and Kindergarten have been crafted into an engaging evening of storytelling and song. Clay will be conducting auditions for the play on Oct. 20 at 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The committee would like to see a big turnout for auditions. Bring your talents, have a fun time, and help our single parents with the gift of education. Call Connie Jaldh at 941-6049 to set up your audition time.

Womanless beauty pageant to benefit local senior citizens

A womanless beauty pageant will be held on Saturday, Oct. 23 at 7 p.m. at the Sheridan High School for Arts and Music. The event is a fundraiser for the down-sicker meal program for local senior citizens.

Flu shot clinic is Oct. 29

The Grant County Health Unit is providing seasonal flu shots at the Sheridan Community Center, located at 1511 S. Rose St., in Sheridan, on Oct. 29 from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. This year, the seasonal vaccine includes protection from the H1N1 virus, so there will be a separate shot. If you have insurance, the ADH will ask your insurance company to pay for the cost of giving the vaccine. If you do not have insurance or your insurance company does not pay, the shot will be no charge to you.

Early voting begins Oct. 18

Early voting for the Nov. 2 General Election will begin on Oct. 18. Absentee voting is already underway. The Grant County Election Commission office will be open Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Lozola to hold Fall Festival

The First Annual Lozola Fall Festival will be held on Saturday, Oct. 23 from 2 p.m. until dark in the Lozola City Park. There will be games, prizes and concessions. The Lagne Boy-U Band will also be performing. In addition, a haunted spook trail will be open Oct. 23 through Oct. 30 starting at dark. All proceeds will go to Lozola Fire Department. For more information, call 503-248-9942.

Public test is Oct. 14

There will be a public test of the electronic voting equipment on Oct. 14 at 10 a.m. in the front hall of the courthouse.

Golden Agers to meet Oct. 20

The Golden Agers of First Lutheran Ministry Baptist Church will meet in the church fellowship hall on Wednesday, Oct. 20 at 11 a.m. Lunch will be served with meatloaf being the entrée for the meal. A program of gospel music will be presented by Paul Rhodes and Edith Cabrete. There will be a door prize. For information, call Sheila Bradford at 942-2888.

Lozola Crime Watch is Oct. 14

A Lozola Crime Watch Meeting will be held Oct. 14 at 7 p.m. at Lozola City Hall. Lozola Crime Watch is now on Facebook. For further information, call (870) 765-2341.

Salad luncheon is Oct. 20

A salad luncheon will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 20 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, located at Church and Main streets in Sheridan. Donations are \$6. Carnivals are available. Call 942-4127 for more information.

Bebe, Ross headline Dem. Rally

The Grant County Democratic Central Committee will once again host the Deer Old Democratic Rally on Thursday, Oct. 28 at 6 p.m. at the Sheridan Recreation Center. Gov. Mike Beebe and Rep. Mike Roy will speak, as will other national, state and local Democratic candidates. Dinner will be served at 6 p.m. The dinner, catered by Dorey's, will be free; donations will be accepted. Reserved tables may be purchased by calling 942-6661. Come and show off your best caucus age outfit!

Sub. teacher workshop Oct. 19

The Sheridan School District will host a substitute teacher workshop on Oct. 19 at 9 a.m. at the Sheridan Central.

See Briefs, page 3

Council reviews budget, approves C&L annexation

By David Jeffrey

A major street paving program and the purchase of a new city fire truck are two reasons why the city of Sheridan's expenditures are higher than its income this year through the month of September. Reports on the city's funds were reviewed by the Sheridan City Council during its Oct. 5 monthly meeting.

In January, the city paid over \$208,000 for a new fire engine. Although it was a budgeted purchase, it was an extraordinary expense for the city to pay in full from its cash reserves.

In August, drawing from cash reserves in the city general fund and general improvement fund, over a half-million dollars was paid to re-surface 5.1 miles of the city street system.

Many cities the size of Sheridan are forced to rely on state and federal grants or bond issues to finance items like fire trucks and street improvements. But in 2010 Mayor Joe Wise and the Sheridan City Council found the financial resources from within the city's treasury.

Through Sept. 30 the General Improvement Tax Fund shows a deficit of \$300,806, largely because of a transfer of \$250,000 to the Street Fund.

The City General Fund shows a deficit of \$85,089 primarily because \$591,945 was transferred to the Street Fund.

After paying the bills due for the street repairs and improvements, the Street Fund shows a deficit of \$18,654.

The Parks and Recreation Fund is also in the red, reporting a deficit of \$19,100.

Parks and Recreation Director Joel Stanton has been directing several general improvements to the baseball-softball complex that include rebuilding dugouts, installing new scoreboards and changing backstops from the old wire mesh fencing to a more widely used type of cloth netting.

One of the Pee Wee football fields acquired lighting this year. While the poles and fixtures were purchased by the Pee Wee Football Association, the city footed the bill for the installation.

See Council page 2

Flu clinics to be held in schools

Parents are being advised that the Sheridan and Poyen school districts, in conjunction with the Arkansas Department of Health, are hosting a free immunization clinic in the school districts.

The flu clinic will provide a free combination H1N1 and Seasonal Flu immunization for students and faculty. Participation is voluntary. Immunization this year will be in the form of a nasal mist. Information consent forms will be sent home with students.

Parents and siblings of students can obtain a flu shot in the free clinic to be held on Oct. 29 at the Sheridan Recreation Center from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The clinic date for the Poyen School District is as follows:

*Poyen Schools, Thursday, Oct. 21.

The flu clinic dates for the Sheridan District are as follows:

*East End Elementary School and East End Intermediate School, Wednesday, Oct. 27.

*Sheridan Elementary School and Sheridan Intermediate School, Wednesday, Nov. 10.

*Sheridan Freshman Academy and Alternative Learning Center, Friday, Nov. 12.

*Sheridan High School, Friday, Nov. 12.

*Sheridan Middle School, Thursday, Nov. 18.

For additional information, contact the Grant County Health Unit at (870) 942-3157.

Grant County Museum to host Sisters on Heritage Day Nov. 6

Sisters is a stringed instrument musical group that was originally formed in 2007 to perform in local churches, schools and private parties. The present group consists of ladies who love to sing and play old-time gospel and familiar songs from the 1900s through the 1990s. Sisters will be performing on Nov. 6 from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Foler Chapel during the Grant County Museum's Heritage Day.

Members of the group include:

*Royce Downs, a former history teacher, who in addition to playing fiddle, autoharp and guitar, enjoys providing the audience a historical background about the songs the group performs.

*Mary Lou Mahurin, whose roots run deep in bluegrass and old-time gospel, plays mandolin.

*Lora Kent, a church pianist who splits her time each Sunday between two churches, plays autoharp and hammered dulcimer.

There will be no admission charge; however, the museum accepts and welcomes donations.

A complete Heritage Day schedule will be available online at www.grantcountymuseum.com.



SISTERS WILL PERFORM old gospel as well as other old songs during the Grant County Museum's Heritage Day on Nov. 6.



POYEN EIGHTH GRADERS Kassidi Walker and Allison White work on an experiment after school as part of the Asprinaut program.

Asprinauts launch in Poyen

By Millie McClain

The Poyen School District has partnered with the Asprinaut Initiative and Vanderbilt University to begin a new after-school program designed to connect third through eighth grade students with instructors from Vanderbilt via video and voice over the internet for advanced studies in science, technology, engineering and math.

"Asprinaut is a partnership with rural K-12 schools to recruit and develop the science, technology, engineering and math (STEM)

workforce necessary for the 21st century," explained Sara Carter, program coordinator for the Asprinaut Initiative - Vanderbilt University.

Dr. Billy Hudson, a professor of Medicine, Pathology and Biochemistry at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn., along with his wife Dr. Julie Hudson, Assistant Vice Chancellor of Health Affairs for Vanderbilt Medical Center, co-founded the Asprinaut program.

Dr. Billy Hudson grew up in Grapevine in Grant County and

he earned his bachelor's degree at Henderson State University.

"He and his wife wanted to start a program that would help guide intelligent young minds in rural areas into science and math-related fields of study," noted Amanda Jones, who is on the faculty in the Poyen School District. She will facilitate the 6th-8th grade students participating in the Asprinaut program.

"The Asprinaut Initiative is the brainchild of Dr. Billy and Dr. Julie Hudson."

See Poyen page 4

Airport Commission spends grant funds on safety, runway features

By David Jeffrey

The Sheridan/Grant County Municipal Airport is sporting a brand new security fence and a resurfaced runway, thanks to an FAA grant received earlier this year.

Don Hawkins, president of the airport commission, says 2,900 feet of chain-link fence with three strands of barbed wire at its top has been installed along with an 18-foot automatic gate. Additionally, two inches of asphalt overlay was applied to 300 feet of Runway 1 and to the taxiway.



GETTING FENCED IN - The first phase of enclosing the Sheridan/Grant County Municipal Airport with a security fence was recently completed, thanks to a \$166,000 grant from the FAA earlier this year. Photo by David Jeffrey

Hawkins said 95 percent of the grant came from the federal government and 5 percent from the state. He said no local money was spent on the improvements.

This was the first step toward enclosing the entire airport with a fence, Hawkins said, about 70

percent of the airport's perimeter remains to be enclosed eventually. He said the FAA would love for all airports to be fenced in, not necessarily to keep humans out, but to keep deer and hogs off of airport grounds.

See Airport page 2

Charrier backs out of JP race, Hooks is unchallenged

By David Jeffrey

Chuck Charrier has withdrawn his name in candidacy for District 1 Justice of the Peace, leaving former JP David Hooks as the lone candidate for the position in the Nov. 2 general election. He submitted a letter on Aug. 24 to the Grant County Election Commission saying he intends to move out of the district.

Charrier said last week he chose to purchase land in the Jacob Creek Subdivision to build a new home after filing his candidacy. The land is in JP District 5. A justice of the peace is required by law to live in the district he/she serves.

Hooks' name will be on the ballot because he won the Democratic Primary in May. He had resigned the position in April when it was reported that Prosecutor Eddy Fahey was considering challenging Hooks' constitutional qualification to serve in elective office. Hooks pled guilty to misdemeanor theft of public property in December 2009 and is serving probation. However, he remains a candidate for re-election in 2010 and drew a write-in challenge from Charrier and also from local realtor Casey Reed.

Reed withdrew as a candidate. See Charrier page 2

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